

Adult Education Advisory Committee
September 8, 2004
Utah State Office of Education
Room 241
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Members: James Andersen (chair), Kim Dohrer (past chair), Paula Oakey (chair elect), Suzette Hudson, Cindy Krueger, Don Uchida, Edie Mitko, Wayne Mifflin, David Peterson, Virginia Sanchez, Herb Clark, Mary Ann Parkinson, Dave Steele, Sandi Grant, Jeff Galli, and Gail Burningham (secretary)

EXCUSED: Shauna South

Welcome and Introductions

The Adult Education Advisory meeting was held September 8, 2004 at the Utah State Office of Education in the South Board Room. Jim Andersen welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced him/herself and stated the group they represent.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the August 11, 2004 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the August minutes was made by Herb Clark. Wayne Mifflin seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Standardized Assessment Tool

Dave reported on the TABE meeting (held August 26, 2004) and said that those at the meeting made the recommendation to have the TABE as the standardized assessment tool for ABE levels 1 through 6 (adult basic education through high school). The need for uniformity for our ESOL population was also discussed. There will be a statewide workshop to attempt to select a single state ESOL test. A facilitator will be provided with the objective to reach consensus on one ESOL test for Utah. The reasoning behind this is so that we have a uniform database and uniform testing for funding. One test will help for uniformity in staff development and curriculum support; we will be better able to target and facilitate training. There was a lengthy discussion concerning the difficulty in moving to one ESOL assessment tool.

A motion was made by Kim to accept the recommendation to use the TABE as the statewide assessment tool with these directives:

1. Adopt the most current TABE forms, which are 7-8 and 9-10 as the single assessment for ABE levels 1-6, inclusive of HSC levels 5-6.
2. Notify programs that they need to make an effort to transition to the most recent TABE series of tests.

Wayne seconded this motion and the motion passed. The committee is still very cautious about the need for one ESOL test but decided to continue with the planned ESOL meeting.

GED for 16-Year Olds

Dave reported on the meeting (held August 26, 2004) with Job Corps representatives to discuss their request that we allow 16-year olds to take the GED. Job Corps has two years to work with

a student. Students need a high school diploma or a GED before entering a trade. Some trades require that a student be 17 years old before they begin training, so they need to get their GED at 16. The issue was raised as to whether other 16-year old Utah residents could take the GED. The recommendation at this meeting was that the Job Corps students go to Wyoming to take the GED. Wyoming allows 16 year olds to take the GED.

The advisory committee then had a lengthy discussion as to whether or not 16 and 17 year olds should take the GED in the state of Utah. The issue of what was best for the student was raised. As this was discussed it was said that it wasn't our decision, as this decision would impact the K-12 program, legislators, businesses, school boards and superintendents. Jeff, Kim, Edie and Paula are those who supported allowing 16-year olds to take the GED. Sandi suggested that it be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Murray will provide us with nation-wide information on 16-year olds taking the GED at the next meeting.

Governance of Adult Education

Dave led a discussion regarding tuitions and fees. Dave received a memo from Patrick Ogden saying that he was left without a good reason to request the full restoration of funding for adult education because it is legislated that adult education programs charge fees. Dave distributed two documents. One showed the state board priorities (adult education has gone from number two down to number eight). The other showed adult education funding requests. It outlined what the costs for adult education are, what the revenues from other sources are and what tuition revenues would be required to make up the loss of the 2.6 million. The form showed that adult education needs 2.2 million in 2005 to meet the needs of the adult population.

Dave talked about the need for colleges to offer developmental courses. We are trying to define what the role of adult education is. We want to be cooperative with colleges and not in competition with them. The number of remedial courses offered at colleges was discussed. It was stated that the income generated from remedial courses needs to pay for the full cost of the courses (it was questioned if this was being done). The sub-committee on public relations will meet with Dave, Don Carpenter and higher education to define the role of adult education with respect to the developmental courses.

Sub-committee Meeting Break Out

The two sub-committees met in their groups for discussion and planning of their respective activities.

Sub-committee Meeting Reports

Advocacy report: James Andersen

This group is meeting September 23rd to work on finalizing the PowerPoint presentation (long and short version). The PowerPoint's will be presented at the next adult directors meeting. The ability to adjust figures to reflect individual district outcomes will be incorporated into the presentations. Model letters of support for adult education will be developed by Mary Ann and Herb. The letters and ideas on "how to approach businesses" to gain support will be presented at the next meeting. These ideas will also be presented at the next directors meeting. A calendar for presentations will be developed.

Public Relations report: Kim Dohrer

The sub-committee will meet along with Don Carpenter and UAACCE representatives on September 17th at 9:45 a.m. to discuss remedial classes in higher education. On October 13th, our next advisory meeting, our goal is to have the information from the census. Kim requested that when Dave sends out information to directors about October's directors meeting that he contact her so that they can include a letter from the committee requesting directors assessment data, along with any brochures. Then on Oct 14th we will gather the information that we have requested from directors and compile it at the November meeting. Our goal has been by January to identify those perceived gaps in services and then to work on solutions to address the gaps.

Other Business

Kim suggested that a recap of the legislative activities from last year be given.

Edie informed the committee about the Early Literacy Backpacks (Spanish or English) for new mothers. If the mother qualifies for TANF, the backpacks are free. An application is required. The application or more information can be obtained by contacting Joyce Muhlestein at (801) 736-5045 or Colleen Taylor at 560-7675. There is another version of the backpack, minus "Baby Einstein", and it contains the same items as the TANF backpacks. These can be purchased for \$12 through Joyce or Colleen.

Sandi distributed a TSOL fall conference handout. The conference will be held October 22 and 23, 2004 (Friday and Saturday) at the Brigham Young University Language Center. They are looking for presenters. Dave Chavez at Horizonte (801/578-8574) is the contact person.

Edie informed us of the Governor's Literacy Summit at the South Towne Expo Center on November 16, 2004. If anyone has success stories relating to Literacy/Read with a Child, let her know. She is sending out the Spanish and English versions of the flyer to the committee members.

Agenda Items for October Meeting

- Murray Meszaros will give information on the GED and 16-year olds.
- The PowerPoint presentations will be finalized and will be presented at this meeting.
- Herb and Mary Ann will explain how to approach businesses to gain support.
- Sample letters asking for support for adult education will be available.

Adjourn

Jim Andersen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Edie moved to adjourn the meeting and Cindy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next meeting will be held October 13, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in room 241.